



## **Small group study materials, October 2019**

## **Chapter & verse - Carlton Turner (page 18)**

Read Luke 14:1 and 7-14, followed by Carlton Turner's article.

- 1. How do you expect a guest at your table to behave? How would you feel if guests broke your unspoken rules?
- 2. The Bible passage tells us that Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner, and Carlton Turner tells us that they were expert interpreters of the law of Moses. How would you expect Jesus to get on with such people?
- 3. How would you sum up Jesus' complaints about the Pharisees in the second and third paragraphs of the article?
- 4. In the article's fourth paragraph, Carlton tells us that the Greek words used in Luke's Gospel for 'exalted' sound like the Greek word for 'the Most High', and that the words also 'allude to Jesus' passion, death and resurrection'. Does this change how you read/hear Jesus' words: 'All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted'? Why?
- 5. For Carlton, 'exalting oneself ... is the definition of pride, for which the only antidote is humility.' Do you agree? What actions can you think of that would help foster humility in people today?
- 6. Looking at the Bible passage, what does Jesus think our dinner parties should be like? How do your dinner parties at your house, or your church compare? How might churches offer a wider welcome?
- 7. In the article's fifth paragraph, Carlton describes 'a sick system where the elite, the rich, and the well-respected have a place at the table, and others do not'. In what ways, if any, does this description from Jesus' day compare with today's society? What 'sick systems' of ours might Jesus criticise?
- 8. Carlton's article ends by suggesting that today's society could combat 'deep selfishness and pride' by better looking after the planet. Do you agree? How much of a priority is concern for the environment to you? What actions could your church take on such matters?





**For further reflection:** 'He brought me to the banqueting house, and his intention toward me was love.' Song of Solomon 2:4

**Prayer:** Father, in your generosity you have invited us to take a seat at your table and to enjoy all that you freely give us. Help us, we pray, to live out the same generosity, to share and give as freely as we have received. Amen.

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